REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 are amended herein.

New claims 8-11 are added.

Support for the claim amendments and new claims is found, for example, in FIGS. 3 and 4, and the disclosure on page 5, line 13, through page 8, line 36, of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2 and 6-11 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 6 and 7 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY MATSUOKA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,563,978)

Claim 1 is amended to recite WDM terminal device comprising (a) a first compensator that collectively optically compensates dispersion of each wavelength of a first plurality of wavelength division multiplexed optical client signals; (b) a transmission amplifier that collectively adjusts levels of said first plurality of wavelength division multiplexed optical client signals; and (b) a multiplexing unit that receives the first plurality of wavelength division multiplexed optical client signals as a WDM signal, and individually receives at least one other optical client signal provided to the multiplexing unit through at least one transponder, and that wavelength division multiplexes together the received WDM signal and the individually received at least one other optical client signal, to thereby output a wavelength division multiplexed light which comprises the first plurality of optical client signals and the individually received at least one other optical client signal.

See, for example, FIGS. 3 and 4, and the disclosure on page 5, line 13, through page 8, line 36, of the specification. See especially WDM terminal device 20 in FIG. 3, and multiplexing unit 44 in FIG. 4.

FIG. 4 of Matsuoka discloses a coupler 5 which receives a first WDM light from the output of amplifier 33 and a second WDM light from the output of amplifier 34. See for example, column 4, lines 51-65, of Matsuoka.

However, coupler 5 in Matsuoka does not individually receive at least one other optical client signal provided through a transponder.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Matsuoka does not disclose or suggest a multiplexing unit that receives the first plurality of wavelength division multiplexed optical client

signals as a WDM signal, and individually receives at least one other optical client signal provided to the multiplexing unit through at least one transponder, and that wavelength division multiplexes together the received WDM signal and the individually received at least one other optical client signal, to thereby output a wavelength division multiplexed light which comprises the first plurality of optical client signals and the individually received at least one other optical client signal, as recited, for example, in the amended claim 1.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, please note that claims 6 and 8 include somewhat similar recitations.

* * *

Claim 2 is amended to recite (a) a second compensator that receives a wavelength division multiplexed signal comprising a second plurality of optical client signals and a third plurality of optical client signals, and collectively compensates dispersion of the second plurality of optical client signals and the third plurality of optical client signals in the wavelength division multiplexed signal; and (b) a reception amplifier that collectively adjusts levels of the second plurality of optical client signals and the third plurality of optical client signals in the wavelength division multiplexed signal; and (c) a separating unit that receives the wavelength division multiplexed signal comprising the second plurality of optical client signals and the third plurality of optical client signals, separates the second plurality of optical client signals from the third plurality of optical client signals, while keeping wavelengths of the second plurality of optical client signals multiplexed together. As recited in claim 2, the separating unit transmits the separated second plurality of optical client signals to a place which is different from where the third plurality of optical client signals is transmitted, while keeping the wavelengths of the second plurality of optical client signals multiplexed. Claim 7 includes somewhat similar recitations.

See, for example, separating unit 56 in FIG. 4.

Matsuoka does not disclose or suggest such features.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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